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22 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant to the Director
for Public Affairs

SUBJECT : The Invisible Government

1. I have noted with interest the clipping from the Miami Herald of 14 June 1964, entitled "Furious McCone Wages War on Book." It appears to be based on an article in the London Observer.

2. Of particular interest in this article is the paragraph which reads as follows:

"The authors and publishers retort that this is nonsense. All names come from newspapers or published congressional testimony or court records, they say, except for a handful that are widely known to newspapermen and diplomats."

3. In other articles which allege to express the views of the authors and publishers of The Invisible Government, it is usually stated that there are no new names appearing in the book as they have all appeared previously in some public media or congressional testimony. You will note here, however, that the authors and publishers allegedly state that the names come from newspapers or congressional testimony "except for a handful that are widely known to newspapermen and diplomats." This sentence would appear to point up the falsity of the authors' positions and that the source of some of The Invisible Government can be laid at the door of State Department personnel as well as newspapermen who have presumably learned some of these names in the field, through untimely gossip, or in confidence. If this is true, it is a far cry from the former claims of the authors that all these names came from published sources.

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Chapter 1

The Invisible Government

PP 3-7

1. Chapter 1 sets forth the authors' basic concept, which runs throughout the book, concerning the existence of an invisible government. The phrase "The Invisible Government" is not new or original with them.

2. The origin of the phrase and concept of The Invisible Government appears to come from a book entitled Can American Democracy Survive Cold War? by Professor Harry Howe Ransom. It was published in the fall of 1963. In the chapters devoted to the NSC mechanism and to CIA, Ransom reiterates his thesis that organizations such as these are a potential invisible government. For instance, at page 173, he states:

"At a level of democratic ideals, the problem is the existence of a potential source of invisible government. "

Somewhat later, in the Saturday Evening Post of 4-11 January 1964, Senator Eugene McCarthy picks up the "invisible government" theme. He states:

"The CIA, in short, is making foreign policy and, in so doing, is assuming the roles of the President and the Congress. It has taken on the character of an invisible government answering only to itself. This must stop. "

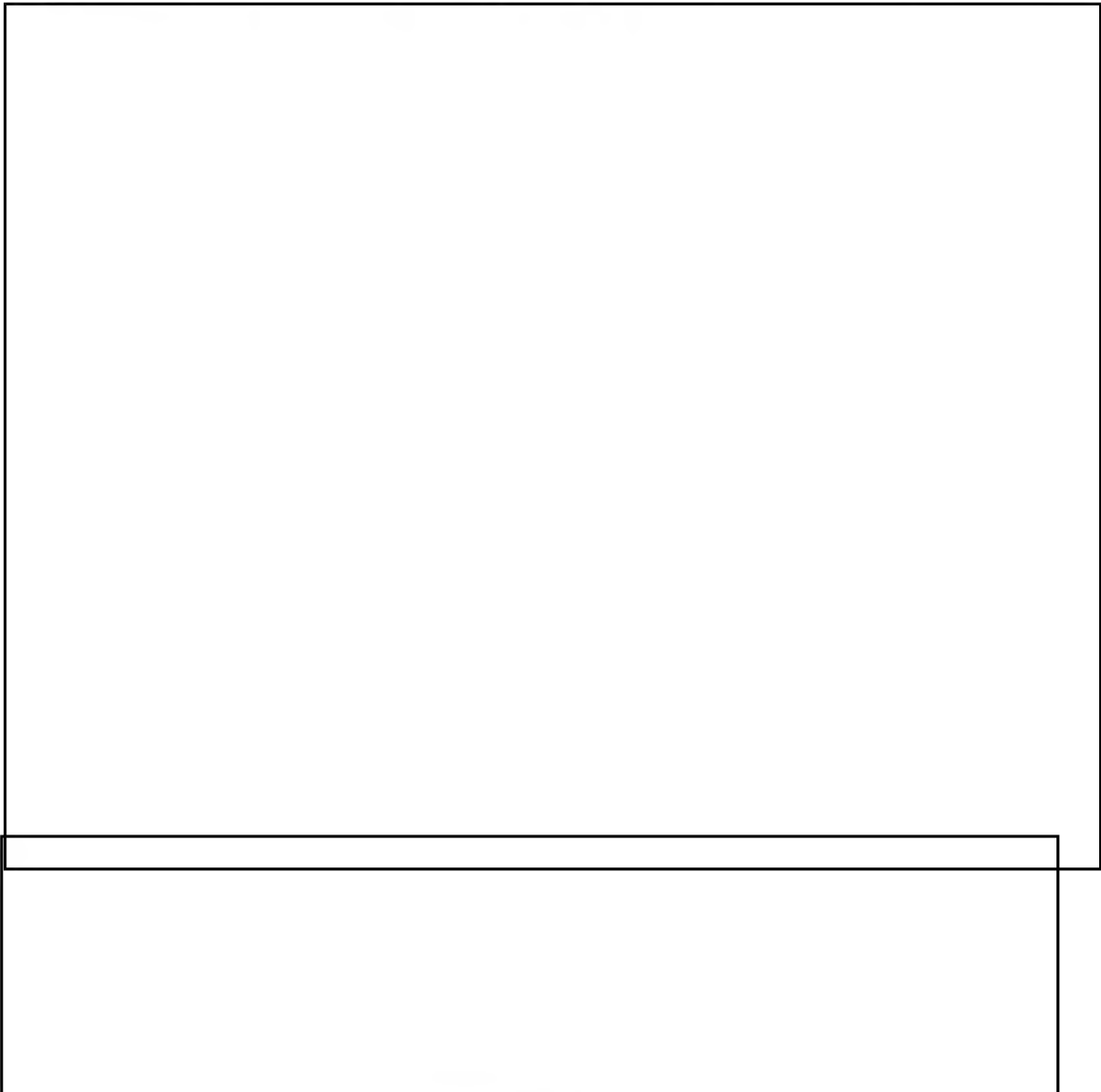
3. On page 5, the authors disclose the existence of a "small directorate" called the "Special Group (also known as the '54-12 group)." Literally, dozens of State Department, Defense, CIA, and other government officials, journalists, Congressmen and their staffs are aware of the existence and functions of this "Special Group." It is therefore extremely difficult to pinpoint any one source for the information contained in page 5 or in other places in the book which deal with the "Special Group."

Chapters 2, 3 and 4

PP 8-90

1. These chapters deal with the Bay of Pigs operation.

Almost all of the material has appeared in one form or another in the press or in publications on this event. The following items, however, possibly indicating sources, are worthy of note:



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Chapter 19

Purity in the Peace Corps
PP 271 - 277

This short chapter relates alleged steps by Mr. Sargent Shriver and others in the Peace Corps to make certain that it would not be utilized for CIA purposes either directly or indirectly. Since CIA policy from the inception of the Peace Corps has been unequivocally against its use in any way, and since no CIA approach to a Peace Corps member for clandestine purposes has ever been demonstrated, it would appear that the source of this chapter is either Mr. Shriver himself or some member of his staff.

Chapter 18

The Search for Control
PP 259-270

This chapter discusses certain general alleged figures as to the size and budget of intelligence activities. It also relates again some information about the Special Group. It then discusses various commission and committee investigations of CIA, all of which have been duly reported in the press.

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